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Message Text

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67
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 ACDA-07 MC-02 /092 W
---------- 036995
P R 272205Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1170
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6851

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EGEN, PE
SUBJ: PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES FROM SOVIETS

REFS: STATE 184183, STATE 178593

1. WE NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST INCREASING CONCERN IN WASHINGTON ON QUESTION PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES FROM SOVIETS REFLECTED IN STATE 184183, AND IN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUER'S REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA REPORTED STATE 178593.

2. IN THIS REGARD, WE, TOO, HAVE DISCREETLY TAKEN UP SOVIET ARMS PURCHASES QUESTION WITH APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS, MOST RECENTLY IN CAEM (PERUVIAN WAR COLLEGE) FORUM, WHERE AMBASSADOR WAS INVITED ON JULY 16.

3. DURING CAEM SESSION AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT WASHINGTON CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE GROWING IMBALANCE OF FORCES BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU, AND DANGER THAT THIS COULD IN TIME BE A KEY FACTOR IN THE INITIATION OF ARMS RACE OR POSSIBLY EVEN OPEN HOSTILITIES. AMBASSADOR MADE POINT THAT PERUVIANS ARE, OF COURSE, FREE TO PURCHASE WHERE THEY WANT, BUT ADDED THAT PERU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND NOT ONLY THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE CREATED THEREBY WITH THE US
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CONGRESS, EXECUTIVE BRANCH, THE PRESS, AND INTERNATIONAL

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BANKING COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO THE UNEASE SUCH ARMS PURCHASES SOW AMONG PERU'S NEIGHBORS.

4. OUR PAST EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH CAEM PRESENTATIONS IS THAT THEIR SUBSTANCE IS GIVEN IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION WITHIN THE PERUVIAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT.
DEAN

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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